

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 252434

17

ORIGIN DPW-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 EUR-12 IO-10 /081 R

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DRAFTED BY: D/PW:FASIEVERTS

APPROVED BY: D/PW:FASIEVERTS

EA/VN-MR. FINNEY

SCA/SCS-MR. GREEN (INFO)

DOD/ISA - DR. SHIELDS (INFO)

DOD/DIA - MR. BERBRICH (INFO)

AID/PM/PS - MS. FUHRMAN (INFO)

NOTE TO ANALYST: PHNOM PENH PICKED UP AS INFO ADDEE

----- 022595

R 152005Z NOV 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

JCRC NKP THAILAND

DAO SAIGON

USSAG THAILAND

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 252434

E.O. 11652:NA

TAGS: PFOR, VS

SUBJECT: REPORTED DEATH OF BRITISH NATIONAL IN SVN

REF: SAIGON 8010 (180803Z JUN 74)

1. DEPTOFF NOV. 14 INFORMED BRITISH EMBOFF OF INFORMATION
RECEIVED FROM VC DEFECTOR SOURCE IN JUNE 1974 CONCERNING
BRITISH NATIONAL WILLIAM HENRY WALLIS, WHO WAS EMPLOYED IN
SVN BY US CONTRACTOR RMK-BRJ. INFORMATION IS IN PARAGRAPH
15B OF IR 6 918 6244 74 (USDAO SAIGON 290902Z JUNE 74) AND
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PAGE 02 STATE 252434

IN FVS-33, 638 WHICH REPORT A BRITISH "COLONEL" CAPTURED

WITH TWO VIETNAMESE FEMALES WAS SHOT BY VC A YEAR AFTER HIS CAPTURE. ANALYSIS NOTES THERE IS NO BRITISH "COLONEL" FITTING REPORT BUT THAT INFORMATION CLOSELY MATCHES CASE OF WALLIS.

2. ON BASIS THIS INFORMATION, WE HAVE CONCLUDED MR. WALLIS DIED FOLLOWING HIS CAPTURE IN 1965. US DEPT.OF LABOR OFFICE OF WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION PROGRAMS FROM WHOM MRS. WALLIS IS RECEIVING DETENTION BENEFITS WILL CONTACT HER TO PROCESS AN APPLICATION FOR DEATH BENEFITS.

3. SUGGEST EMBASSY SAIGON FOLLOW UP AS APPROPRIATE WITH BRITISH EMBASSY IN RESPONSE TO THEIR MAY 23, 1974 NOTE (REFTEL). FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PAPER WE GAVE TO UK EMBOFF HERE.

4. BEGIN TEXT: THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION REFERS TO BRITISH

SUBJECT WILLIAM HENRY WALLIS, WHO HAS BEEN MISSING AND PRESUMED CAPTURED BY COMMUNIST FORCES IN SOUTH VIET-NAM SINCE 14 FEBRUARY 1965. THE SOURCE FOR THE INFORMATION IS A FORMER VIET CONG OFFICER WHO RALLIED TO THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM SIDE IN NOVEMBER, 1973 NEAR TAY NINH IN SOUTH VIETNAM. THE INFORMATION WAS INITIALLY REPORTED TO US OFFICIALS IN JUNE 1974 IN SAIGON AND HAS SINCE BEEN REVIEWED AND EVALUATED.

A) THE SOURCE DESERTED FROM THE COMMUNIST RANKS IN OCTOBER, 1970 AND FROM SEPTEMBER, 1972 TO NOVEMBER, 1973 WAS DETAINED AT VARIOUS VC PRISON CAMPS. WHILE HELD AT THE B.17 DETENTION CAMP (LATER REDESIGNATED BY THE VC AS THE C.53 DETENTION CAMP) IN 1973, ANOTHER FORMER VIET CONG OFFICER AND OTHER VC PERSONNEL TOLD THE SOURCE THAT SOME TIME "IN 1967 OR LATE 1966" A VC FORCE CAPTURED A BRITISH "COLONEL" AND TWO VIETNAMESE-CHINESE FEMALES TRAVELING BY BOAT ON A RIVER IN TAY NINH PROVINCE, SOUTH VIETNAM. THE FEMALES WERE IDENTIFIED AS LE LINH, ABOUT 20 YEARS OLD, AND HER SISTER, 15, WHO HAD WORKED IN AN OFFICE IN SAIGON WITH THE ENGLISHMAN. ALL THREE WERE HELD IN THE B.17 PRISON CAMP, AND SOMETIME IN LATE 1967 OR 1968 THE BRITISH "COLONEL" WAS SENTENCED TO DEATH BY THE B.17 DETENTION CAMP AUTHORITIES FOR REFUSING TO COOPERATE DURING A YEAR OF INTERROGATION. CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 252434

TION. HE WAS SUBSEQUENTLY EXECUTED, AND HIS REMAINS WERE BURIED NEAR THE CAMP IN THE VICINITY OF PHUOC AN VILLAGE, PHUOC NINH DISTRICT, TAY NINH PROVINCE, SOUTH VIETNAM (UTM COORDINATES XT0169). ONE OF THE TWO SISTERS WAS REPORTEDLY RELEASED AND RETURNED TO SAIGON, AND THE OTHER ALLEGEDLY STAYED BEHIND TO WORK FOR THE VC.

B) AFTER THIS INFORMATION WAS RECEIVED, IT WAS DETERMINED

THAT THERE WAS NO BRITISH "COLONEL" WHO WOULD MATCH THIS REPORT. HOWEVER, THE INFORMATION DOES CLOSELY MATCH THE CASE OF MR. WALLIS. IN THE JUDGEMENT OF ANALYSTS, THE DISCREPANCY ON DATES COULD RESULT FROM THE FACT THAT THE INFORMATION WAS TOLD TO THE SOURCE, WITH THE RESULT THAT AN ERROR OF TWO YEARS REGARDING A DATE SEVERAL YEARS IN THE PAST COULD OCCUR. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE DATES, THE OTHER INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE SOURCE CORRELATES ALMOST EXACTLY WITH THE CASE OF MR. WALLIS, THE PREVIOUSLY KNOWN FACTS OF WHICH ARE AS FOLLOWS:

C) MR. WALLIS AND TWO VIETNAMESE WOMEN, SISTERS OF CHINESE EXTRACTION NAMED TAN BAO LINH, AGE 15, AND TRAN LE LINH, AGE 20, WERE RIDING IN A MOTORBOAT ALONG THE SAIGON RIVER ON 14 FEBRUARY 1965. MR. WALLIS TURNED THE BOAT AROUND NEAR THE BINH LOI BRIDGE WITH THE INTENTION OF RETURNING TO SAIGON, AND THE BOAT RECEIVED SMALL ARMS FIRE FROM THE BANK

OF THE RIVER WHICH CAUSED THE GAS TANK TO EXPLODE. THE BOAT WAS FORCED TO SHORE AND THE GROUP WAS CAPTURED BY THE VIET CONG ON 21 SEPTEMBER 1965. TRAN BAO LINH RETURNED TO SAIGON AFTER BEING RELEASED BY THE VIET CONG.

D) ALTHOUGH THERE IS A DIFFERENCE OF SOME TWENTY MONTHS IN THE DATE OF CAPTURE, MOST OF THE OTHER INFORMATION FITS THE CASE OF MR. WALLIS. THE VIET CONG COULD HAVE ASSUMED MR. WALLIS TO BE A "COLONEL" IN VIEW OF HIS JOB AS SECURITY AGENT FOR RMK-BRJ. THERE IS NO INFORMATION AVAILABLE CONCERNING THE FATE OF THE SISTER. THUS, THE SOURCE'S UNDERSTANDING THAT THE OTHER FEMALE ELECTED TO STAY WITH HER CAPTORS COULD BE VALID. IN MARCH 1967, MR. WALLIS' CLUB NAUTIQUE MEMBERSHIP CARD WAS FOUND AMONG VC DOCUMENTS CAPTURED IN TAY NINH PROVINCE IN THE VICINITY OF XT 02 81, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 252434

WHICH FURTHER CONFIRMS A DETENTION LOCATION IN THE TAY NINH AREA.

E) U.S. ANALYSTS HAVE CONCLUDED WITH REGRET THAT THIS INFORMATION IS SUFFICIENTLY CONVINCING TO ESTABLISH THE FACT OF MR. WALLIS'S DEATH, PROBABLY SOMETIME IN 1966. WE EXTEND OUR CONDOLENCES TO MRS. WALLIS AND TO OTHER MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY. END OF TEXT. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION, POW, DEATHS, DIPLOMATIC NOTES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE252434
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: D/PW:FASIEVERTS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740333-0775, D740331-0536
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741139/aaaabgio.tel
Line Count: 162
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN DPW
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: SAIGON 8010 (180803Z JUN 74)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31 JUL 2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <20 MAR 2003 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPORTED DEATH OF BRITISH NATIONAL IN SVN
TAGS: PFOR, VS, US, UK, (WALLIS, WILLIAM H), (WALLIS, WILLIAM HENRY)
To: SAIGON
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005